



Children

are a source of comic. They are a source of care, also. If you care for your child's health, send for illustrated book on the disorders to which children are subject, and which Frey's Vermifuge has cured for 50 years. One bottle for 25 cents. E. & S. FREY, Baltimore, Md.

THE CRIMINAL COURT.

Third Day of the Spring Term—Ed Sharpless Pleads Guilty of Manslaughter—A True Bill Found in Dross Neck Murder No. 1—Other Cases.

Pursuant to adjournment for recess on Tuesday evening the circuit criminal court of New Hanover county met yesterday at 10 a. m., Judge Sutton presiding.

The case of the State vs. Edward Sharpless, colored, charged with the murder of Sam Register, colored, near Castle Haynes March 17th ult., was called up. Marsden Bellamy, Esq., appeared as counsel for the accused and Solicitor M. C. Richardson for the state. The prisoner through his counsel put in a plea of guilty of manslaughter, and it was accepted by the solicitor. No jury was drawn in the case, but the judge called the witnesses and stated that if, upon examining them, he found the circumstances to warrant it, he would strike out the plea of manslaughter and try Sharpless for murder.

Hannah Clark, a colored girl, 14 years of age, testified: Ed Sharpless and Sam Register were at the house of Mr. Ike Hines, near Castle Haynes, some time last month, when the shooting occurred. They were in the yard and there seemed to be a dispute between them about the inspection of some light-wood. Heard Sharpless tell Register to come out of Hines' yard. Register went out of the northwest gate, and Sharpless was standing in the southwest gate. Register had an axe and a bag of grub on his shoulder and was starting for home. Sharpless ran around and headed Register off, and raised his gun and shot Register as he cleared the gate. Register fell and was carried into the house by some men.

D. A. Carter was sworn and testified mainly as follows: I passed by Mr. Hines' house on the 17th of last March. Mrs. Hines called me and I stopped. She told me Ed Sharpless had shot Sam Register and that some men had carried Register in the kitchen. I was requested to take Register in my buggy to a physician to have his wound dressed. I went into see Register and he told me Ed Sharpless shot him. I asked him what Sharpless did that for, and he said he had done nothing to Sharpless. I asked him where he was shot, and he put his hand on his right side. I examined him and found that he was too badly wounded to be moved. I told him if he were carried to the doctor in a buggy or cart the jolting might cause his death. The judge asked witness if he were a doctor, and he said: No, I am not a doctor, but I passed through the war and know when a man is seriously wounded. I tried to move Register, but he could not bear to be touched. From the appearance of the wound, I would suppose it was caused by No. 3 shot—bird shot. I went back next morning to see Register and found him worse.

Owen Hansly and other witnesses were examined, but the testimony was about the same as above. Judge Sutton reserved his judgment till today.

The court took up and disposed of other cases as follows:

State vs. R. F. Holmes, colored, assault and battery with a deadly weapon on R. F. Hamme, continued till next term.

State vs. Julia Hart, assault and battery with a deadly weapon. Defendant submitted and judgment was suspended on payment of the costs. The defendant took the insolvent oath and was discharged.

State vs. Mary Cole, larceny, not pressed with leave.

State vs. William James, colored, larceny. Defendant submitted and was sentenced to 12 months in the penitentiary.

State vs. Henry Johnson, larceny, pleaded not guilty, verdict guilty. Sentenced to 12 months in the penitentiary.

State vs. Annie Graham, larceny, verdict guilty. Sentenced to 6 months in the county work house.

State vs. Percy Lamb, colored, carrying concealed deadly weapon, verdict guilty. Judgment suspended on payment of the costs.

State vs. John Moore, colored, larceny, verdict guilty. Sentenced to 12 months in the penitentiary.

State vs. Sam Marshall, colored, carrying concealed weapon. Defendant submitted and was sentenced to six months in the work house.

The grand jury found a true bill against Ben Smith and Dan Parker, colored, charged with the murder of Charles Jones, a sailor off the American Brig M. C. Heiskell, in Dross Neck, on the 10th of last February. Smith was brought into court and was arraigned and put in a plea of not guilty. The case was then continued till the next term. Parker was never taken, having fled for parts unknown.

Confession of a Fire-Bug.

Norfolk, Va., April 28.—Frank Linn, one of the five men under arrest charged with having originated the fire that swept the city of Portsmouth the night of the 28th of March, today made a confession to the attorneys in the case. The lawyers would not give out any part of the confession, but it was ascertained that Linn said that the right men were in custody.

The Majority Muddle.

A special dispatch to The Messenger from Raleigh last night says:

"Chief Justice Faircloth says the supreme court will adjourn next Saturday on this term. It will file the last opinions on next Friday. It will not hear the Wilmington majority case this term, owing to Mr. Ricard's statement that his side is not ready."

We learn that, though at first some of them not consenting, all the lawyers did consent to take the case up next week and argue it, if the court would hear it. This being so, there should be made an immediate effort by the authorities of this city, the business men, and the commercial bodies, to induce the supreme court to act in the matter at once. We understand that there is no limit as to the term of the court, so that the hearing of the case would be in its discretion. Section 616 of The Code provides that in cases of this character the courts shall expedite their hearing and settlement. In view of this, upon a disinterested presentation of the importance of an immediate settlement of this question to the city, no doubt the court will reconsider and hear it.

The importance of an immediate determination to us cannot be overestimated. In July the city, as usual, will have to borrow some \$30,000 to pay interest on its debt. The present board of aldermen with a doubt as to its title to office, will be unable to do so and then our credit goes to the wall by default in the payment of the interest on our bonded indebtedness. It is the time of year when contracts are made and have to be made in the various departments for lighting the city, and other matters, and doubt now hangs over these. If not settled, further individual suits will be instituted against the minor officials, and demoralization will result. All this means trouble, embarrassment and serious injury to the public interest. In view of this, and the section quoted, we believe, if the proper effort is made by an appeal, today by telegram to the court, say from the board of audit, the several mayors, the presidents of the commercial bodies and leading business men, we may yet have this matter settled. Will these gentlemen not act? The Messenger feels that it does its duty to thus call attention to the matter.

Horror of a Shipwreck.

St. Johns, N. F., April 28.—Anxiety is felt at St. Pierre as to the condition of the four survivors of the wrecked French brigantine *Valliant*, which foundered on the Grand Banks on the night of April 14th and foundered almost immediately. Three of them are in a comatose condition and it is feared that one will not live through the night.

Their physical and mental sufferings are terrible. It was necessary to amputate the arms and feet of three, their ears and noses were badly frozen and the flesh presents a ghastly and leprous like appearance. As if this reason is temporarily, if not permanently, gone. As they lay in their cots they rave in distracted recollection of their awful experience.

It is scarcely possible to get any definite notion of the incidents of the disaster, but it seems from what can be gathered from the incoherent cries and ravings that four dories were overturned at the moment of the wreck. Two of the men on board the rescued dory were taken from the water almost drowned. They were the first two to perish. The third who died was a young fellow about 18 years of age. He made a stubborn fight for life.

Four boats are known to have got away from the ship, but the captain's boat was the only one afterwards seen by the occupants of the rescued dory. The intense cold made it impossible for them to do anything in the way of navigating the dory and they were compelled to drift helplessly.

The most horrifying incident of the experience was the cannibalism to which they were driven by the relentless pangs of hunger. The dead body which they used for food was frozen so stiff that they were scarcely able to hack off the flesh with their knives. For two days the life of the survivors was sustained in this way.

Everything that is possible is being done to find the missing boats if it be possible to have a good fortune to have survived. Outgoing vessels will make a close search of the waters north and south of St. Johns, but there is little hopes of further rescues.

DR. RUSSELL BELLAMY

Presents the Sigma Alpha Men to President McKinley.

President McKinley received the members of the New York chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon in the parlors of the Windsor at 1 o'clock last night. The president is a member of the fraternity. The principal speaker was Dr. Russell Bellamy, who said:

"Brother William McKinley, president of the United States: We have come from every state in the union to do you honor to seek new inspiration and to be sent along with renewed ambition. This occasion has ever been a memorial to all of us. It is on the eve of paying further tribute to the fame of that great general whose name resounds with patriotism, strength and truth; others who pay homage, not only for his loyalty toward the one, but his kindness and consideration toward the other. Let us have peace tells the story of his life."

The president replied as follows: "Doctor, I assure you I feel honored in meeting the members of the fraternity. I am very proud to be a member of such a fine organization as the Sigma Alpha Epsilon. It is as dear to me now as it was in my college days."

Shaking hands he remarked: "You see, I haven't forgotten the old grip yet."—New York Journal, April 27.

The Romeyn Trial.

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—Captain Romeyn completed his defence before the court-martial today. He put Lieutenant O'Brien on the stand and the latter swore that no engagement had ever existed between Captain Romeyn's daughter and Lieutenant Ramford. It was the dullest day of the trial. Tomorrow may be the end.

Mysterious Disappearance of Young Lady.

Newport News, Va., April 28.—A special to The Daily Press from Hampton says that Miss Mamie L. Patrick mysteriously disappeared from her home in that city late Monday night. She was to have been married today to Mr. D. W. Culley, of this city and being next to the altar in anticipation of her coming union. While she was an attractive and popular girl, she had no other admirer whose attention was encouraged. Diligent efforts of relatives to find her have been in vain.

CITY AFFAIRS.

Approval of the Contract of the Street Railway Company to Furnish Electric Light—The Wilmington Gaslight Company to Furnish Gas and Light the Markets.

A conference of the board of audit and finance was held last night to consider the contract for lighting the city. All the members were in attendance, viz.: Chairman William H. Chadbourne and Messrs. H. C. McQueen, C. W. Yates, H. A. DeCover, and John H. Webber.

Eugene S. Martin, Esq., representing the Wilmington Gaslight Company, George Rountree, Esq., President H. A. Whiting, and Manager M. F. H. Gouverneur, representing the Wilmington Street Railway Company, and Mayor S. P. Wright were present.

Chairman Chadbourne stated that under the act creating the board, the number of meetings authorized for a month had been exhausted, but the board would have a conference and at the next regular meeting to be held next Tuesday would approve whatever was agreed on in the conference touching the award of the contract for lighting the city.

Captain John Cowan, the clerk read a communication from the board of aldermen, stating the action of that board in awarding the contract to the Wilmington Street Railway Company for lighting the city with electric lights, and in awarding the contract to the Wilmington Gaslight Company for lighting the city with gas.

The clerk was then called on to read the bids of the respective companies, upon which the board of aldermen took action. The bid of the Wilmington Gaslight Company was to furnish 73 arc street lamps at \$9 each per month, to light the three markets as now wired, at \$28.50 per month, to furnish gas for lighting the street lights at \$2 per month for each lamp, to furnish gas for lighting the alley lamps at \$2.50 per month for each lamp, and to light the city hall with gas, at \$18.50 per month. The bid of the Wilmington Street Railway Company, (electricity alone), was to furnish 73 arc street lamps at \$7 per month each, two arc lamps at Front street market, at \$10 per month each, and incandescent lights at 50 cents each.

Chairman Chadbourne stated that the question to be considered in connection with the bids was as to the competency of the Wilmington Street Railway Company as a bidder.

Mr. Gouverneur submitted to the board the proposition that the proposal of the Street Railway Company to give bond for the faithful performance of the contract settled the matter of the company's competency.

Mr. Martin addressed the board and explained his contention before the board of aldermen that the Wilmington Street Railway Company was not a competent bidder, as it did not have a plant ready for carrying out the contract and that its proposition was to begin lighting the city June 1st. He submitted that the law required the contract to be awarded annually and urged that the custom is to date the contract from April 1st, that his company has been lighting the city since April 1st, and being a competent bidder should be awarded the contract. He proposed that the bid of his company could be revised to meet the wishes of the board. He spoke of the fairness of his company in years gone in reducing the charges for arc lamps from \$12 to \$10 and then to \$9, without being solicited to do so.

Mr. Gouverneur in response to a question of Chairman Chadbourne said his company in a day or two could get the lights along the street railway line ready, that in two weeks they would have 30 lamps ready, and in two weeks more they could be ready to fulfill the contract. He stated that his company has sufficient dynamo power, and that the newest arc lamps, such as are used in Washington would be put up.

George Rountree, Esq., attorney for the Street Railway Company, read the law, providing that the contract for lighting the city shall be awarded annually or at such other time as may be necessary and spoke at some length as to the competency of his company, and its ability to give bond and carry out the contract. He submitted to the board that his company was the lowest bidder and there could be no other course but to approve the contract.

After further discussion by the attorneys, the members of the board agreed, at its next meeting, to approve the contract with the Street Railway Company for furnishing the 73 arc lights, and to approve the contract with the Wilmington Gaslight Company for furnishing the city gas lamps, gas at the city hall, and for lighting the three markets.

RESTORED TO HEALTH.

If you are suffering with any skin or blood disease, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Ulcers, Old Sores, General Debility, etc., send stamp to the Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga., for book of wonderful cures. This book will point the way to speedy recovery.

Botanic Blood Balm, (B. B. B.) is manufactured after a long tested prescription of an eminent physician, and is the best building-up and blood purifying medicine in the world. Beware of substitutes. Price \$1.00 for large bottle. For sale by Druggists.

ONE IN A THOUSAND.

One summer, several years ago, while railroad in Mississippi I became badly affected with malarial blood poison, that impaired my health for more than two years. Several offensive ulcers appeared on my legs, and nothing seemed to give permanent relief until I took of Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.), which cured me entirely. M. D. LANE, Deveraux, Ga.

THE GRANT MEMORIAL.

THE GRANDEST PAGEANT EVER WITNESSED IN AMERICA.

An Immense Crowd Witness the Ceremonies—The Military Parade An Impending Sight—The Tribute of the Sons of Confederate Veterans—The Grand Review of American and European Warriors Upon the River by the President.

New York, April 27.—Never but once in the history of the world, and never before in the history of the United States, has such a tribute been paid to the noble dead as when today with wonderful pageant by land and sea, the nation dedicated the tomb that now holds the body of its hero, Ulysses S. Grant.

It was an occasion more of triumph and eulogy and national pride than of funeral right, for in these twelve years since the nation mourned for Grant the keenness of grief has worn away and in its place there lives in the hearts of men that hero worship which found such tumultuous vent today. The greatest of our citizens, our soldiers, and our sailors, today stood side by side with men of fame from almost every nation of the earth and paid, without regard to race, or creed, or party prejudice, the last and long delayed honor of a living to the dead, while the greatest throng that ever filled the city of New York added its surging peal to the roar of belching guns and the tramp of marching soldiers. And in that throng there was no north, and no south, for since the soldier president had said:

"LET US HAVE PEACE," the gray has blended with the blue. Before the presidential party left the city to take part in the dedication ceremonies the part in the dedication ceremonies the flag-decked streets were black with people, who cheered vociferously as the great throng drove by. When the tomb was reached, a strange sight met the eyes; all around the oval, in the centre of which stood the gray monument to Grant, were what seemed to be black hillsides. The somber background was formed by the thousands of spectators who filled the wood stands, built up from the ground on both sides of the tomb to the level of the steps that lead to its massive doors. To the south, where the loop around the oval met the river side, there were two solid lines of humanity. On all four sides of the monument oval the stands were packed to overflowing, while facing these crowds was the great mass of eager sight-seers, who had not been officially provided for.

And when it was all over, when Major Strong had formally accepted from the nation the trust of the tomb, and when the president and his party disappeared from the tomb, a sigh of relief went up from the crowd, for at last the hero lay in the tomb befitting his renown and fittingly dedicated by a grateful nation.

While the land parade was waited for, the conclusion of the ceremonies, the sky became leaden and the wind increased until it almost howled around the trees. The waters of the Hudson reflected the ashen hue of the sky and the great white ships that floated on its bosom stood out in a most ominous relief. The dusty road bed of the drive was whipped up until black coats became brown, and spectators forsook their unsheltered seats for the protection of the tomb pillars.

Then, suddenly, under the cloud of dust from the south between the two black lines of people came the nodding plumes of the soldiers. On they marched, an endless line of white and blue and gray. First passing on the west side of the monument oval and returning on the north road under the monumental arch, they passed the president in review and then back again into the black background of humanity and the white clouds of dust.

Surrounded by his cabinet, his generals, and his friends, President McKinley stood and reviewed the grandest military pageant ever seen in this city. They were regular soldiers, regular national guardsmen of the sea and land forces, grand army veterans, confederates and the striplings who, in the future, may fight as gallantly as their fathers did.

When the cheering was at its loudest and when the wind had somewhat died away, a touching scene was enacted, which was seen by few. Silently Mrs. Grant stole away from the president's reviewing stand, where she had been watching the gallant troops go by, and, above the crowd of the monument oval, she made her way to the tomb, followed only by the members of the Grant family. The bronze doors were opened and the widow of the hero passed from the noise of the outside world into the quiet of the tomb. For a moment she stood there and then, with her face hidden in her hands, she left the scene.

Soon after this, President McKinley went aboard the Dolphin and, amid the booming of guns and the reviewing of great warships that lay in the shadow of the tomb, the dense crowds still stayed in their seats and watched the end of the land parade. Then, when the last company had passed and the hundreds of thousands of spectators sought their homes. All traffic was congested and it was hours before the tide of travel fell to its normal condition.

AT THE TOMB.

At 11:04 o'clock President McKinley entered the speakers stand, and was followed by the others who were to participate in the ceremonies. The president, with bare head, was the first to enter the stand. He leaned on the arm of Mayor Strong, who kept on his hat. The president was loudly cheered and was also ex-President Cleveland, who appeared with ex-Secretary Tracey. Mr. Cleveland and President McKinley shook hands with each other as soon as they met. The two then conversed for a moment. While waiting for the ceremonies on the stand to commence President McKinley, with Vice President Hobart and ex-President Cleveland, had their photographs taken in a group.

The first row immediately back of the platform was occupied by the Grant party, Colonel Fred Grant being on the end, escorting his mother. Next to Mrs. Grant was seated her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, and the other members of the family. Immediately back of the Grant family were seated the members of the president's family. The third row was occupied by the ladies of the cabinet, many members of their families and their friends in general. The exact order commenced with the singing of "America."

A solemn silence then fell on the dense crowd as Bishop John P. Newman invoked the blessings of heaven on the ceremonies. Many people joined in the "Lord's Prayer," which concluded the bishop's prayer.

As soon as the prelate had taken

his seat the hymn of thanks, "Old Netherland Folk Song," was sung by the chorus.

Another mighty cheer arose as President McKinley, after the singing of the hymn, moved to the rail in the speaker's stand to deliver his address. He was introduced by Mayor Strong.

As the president took off his hat cries came from all sides: "Put on your hat; we'll excuse you." "Put on your hat; we'll excuse you." The president, however, stood with bare head, despite the nipping wind that swept across the exposed stand. The president then delivered his address.

The vast crowd listened with keen attention to the president's words and at intervals broke into cheers when some incident in the dead soldier's career was alluded to by the distinguished speaker.

As the president concluded his address, Colonel Fred Grant advanced and shook him warmly by the hand. As the two men stood in the foreground of the wonderful picture the spectators applauded.

The "Star Spangled Banner" was played by the band, after which General Horace Porter was introduced by the mayor. The orator of the day was accorded a warm reception. More discreet than the president, General Porter kept his hat on while he was speaking. He read his address from type written manuscript.

When General Porter began to speak the biting wind forced many of the ladies in the presidential party to seek the shelter of the tomb. Among those who were Mrs. McKinley, who was slightly indisposed.

General Porter was followed by Mayor Strong, who formally accepted the tomb.

THE LAND PARADE.

With military promptitude and perfect discipline the land parade started from Twenty-fourth street and Madison avenue on the minute—at 10:30 o'clock. Major General Grenville M. Dodge, followed by a staff of celebrated soldiers, led the column, the military band from Governor's island coming next.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans who were to arrive at the tomb at 9:30 o'clock and place a floral wreath with crossed swords on the sarcophagus, started an hour late in reaching the scene. They were headed by James R. Branch, commander-in-chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The tokens were reverently laid on the sarcophagus by General J. B. Gordon, while his comrades stood by with uncovered heads.

THE NAVAL PARADE.

The warships claimed the attention of the arrival of the dignitaries and the commencement of the services of dedication. The river was dotted with small boats which were tossed about on the roughened waters and looked from the bluff like so many bobbing corks. All was life and bustle aboard the men-of-war.

The naval part of the demonstration, the grand division, lay at anchor in the river in sight of the tomb, while the merchant marine division was located in the lower bay, awaiting the word to start the start of the head of the column. The grand division was under the command of Rear Admiral Francis H. Bunce, United States navy.

The signal "dress ship" was the first maneuver of the day, and the nimble sailors were upon every yard and top of the rigging in a trice. All the available flags and bunting aboard the warships seemed to have been hauled out of lockers for the occasion. Strings of flags were run from the stern up to the bows and down again to the stern. The United States ensign floated at the stern of all our warships and at the fore of all the foreign vessels. Revenue marine and the light house tenders, eleven of the latter and five of the former were in line. The dispatch boat Dolphin lay off above the warships, decked profusely in bunting.

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The moment the president boarded the lighthouse boat Daisy, the police boat patrol, assisted by several launches from the warships, began to force the tugs and steamers back, and a clear view of the water was visible when the Daisy reached the starboard side of the dispatch boat and the presidential flag broke from her mainmast.

As the president set foot upon the deck of the Dolphin, a presidential salute of twenty-one guns was fired and the fleet of steamers blew whistles until the sound of the firing was scarcely audible. President McKinley was met on board by Lieutenant Commander Richardson Clover, commanding officer of the Dolphin and was introduced by him to Rear Admiral Francis M. Bunce, commanding the naval division. The officers of the Dolphin saluted the president, who walked aft and ascended the quarter deck.

At 5:30 o'clock the Dolphin started down the river, followed by the immense fleet of steamers which had waited the arrival of the president. The New York, with the vessel masses by the Dolphin and President McKinley doffed his hat and bowed as the first gun of her salute boomed across the waters. Next came the Indiana and then the guns of the British cruiser Talbot welcomed the president. The Texas was the next to greet him, and then the two Spanish ships, the Maria Teresa and the Infanta Isabella, the French corvette Fulton; the Italian cruiser, Dogali, and the Raleigh, Columbia, Amphitrite and Terror, of the white squadron, saluted in quick succession as the Dolphin steamed by.

The rails were manned by the gallant tars of the various ships and a French bugle call from the Fulton, was added to its salute of the chief executive.

Salutes were fired after the warships had been left behind by the revenue cutters Dexter, Woodbury, Dallas, Hamilton and Windom, and silence ensued when the lighthouse tenders, of which there were eleven, were reached. The tug Ramapo, which was filled by soldiers from Ohio with their band, steamed up the river and while sailing by the Dolphin cheered for the president again and again. Mr. McKinley seemed highly pleased, and walked to the side of the Dolphin nearest the Ramapo. He took his hat off and remained uncovered until the Ramapo had gone astern. A steamer containing the members of the Pennsylvania legislature next attempted to attract the president's attention and he cordially saluted them as they waived their hats from the bow.

The Dolphin came to anchor opposite

West Fifty-second street, having been preceded down the river by the torpedo boat Porter. The president stepped into the launch, and as she steamed for the Fifty-second street pier, the Dolphin's gun boomed a farewell salute and her sailors and marines manned the rails.

THE ASYLUM CASES.

Judge Adams Sustained by the Supreme Court—The C. F. and V. V. to Increase Its Tariffs—Judgment Against the Seaboard Air Line.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., April 27.—The supreme court today unanimously decided the insane asylum cases in favor of the present incumbents, Justice Montgomery delivering the opinion.

The gist of the decision is that office is property and that the act changing the name of the officers did not change the office. The court further says the act is but an amendment of the older law. The case of the insane asylum at Raleigh is the one on which the opinion is based, it being taken for all the others. The court says Superintendent Kirby and the other defendants at the time of their appointment were public officers and are entitled to their offices, their terms not having yet expired. The court says that in examining the act with the view of arriving at its construction and effect, it is not disposed to inquire into the motives of the legislature in enacting the bill into law, nor is it necessary to do so to arrive at a proper legal conclusion. If the legislature has in some of the provisions of the statute gone beyond its powers, such course may be attributed to another motive than wilful attempt to violate the constitution.

The great opinion of Chief Justice Ruffin, in the case of Hoke against Henderson, is cited. Authority in this and other states causes the court to adhere to the opinion that an office is property and is subject of protection like any other property under provisions of section 17 of article 1, of the constitution. Cases cited here are King vs. Hunter, 65 N. C.; Cotten vs. Ellis, 7 Jones; Bailey vs. Caldwell, 68 N. C.; Bunting vs. Gales, 77 N. C.

Emoluments of public office being private property, it follows that the terms for which the defendants were elected not having expired, they could not be ousted, except for cause, unless they failed to perform their duties or unless the offices were abolished. It is clearly decided in Hoke vs. Henderson, and Bunting vs. Gales, that as long as the office exists the term cannot be lessened to the prejudice of the holders of the office. The principles of the cases cited are founded in justice and safe public policy. It is true that in this state an office can be abolished, unless it be one created by the constitution, but, in this instance the court holds that the office was not abolished. Act of 1897 declaring that the office of superintendents of old corporations are abolished and offices of principal and resident physician substituted and latter elected for four years, the plaintiffs contended that offices under the old corporations were abolished, but the court does not sustain this contention. The court then referred to the act of 1870-71 (which the legal profession are familiar with) and discusses the cases of Nichols vs. McKee, 69 N. C., and that class of cases, in support of the ruling in this case. Clark vs. Stanley, 66 N. C.; State vs. Williams, 117 N. C., are cited. The court, in conclusion, says:

"The effect of the act, then, is that it has only prospective operation as to change of name of the institution or names of officers connected with it, and the defendants are entitled to hold their offices—the defendants Kirby for the term for which he was elected, and the other defendants for the terms for which they were appointed and until their successors are duly elected and appointed and qualified."

The court sustains the ruling of Judge Adams, who presided upon trial in the court below.

In the superior court here today a verdict for \$11,000 damages was given ex-Engineer Thad Pleasants, of the Seaboard Air Line, for the loss of his left hand last year, in a railway collision at Manly. The railway appealed.

The railway commission today granted the request of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway and allows it the same tariff of rates as the Carolina Central.

Supreme Court Decisions.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., April 27.—The supreme court justices this afternoon filed the following opinions: Heia vs. Meares from Buncombe, affirmed; Wykel vs. Commissioners of Jackson, action abated; Wood vs. Bellamy, from Wake, and Lusk vs. Sawyer, and Person vs. Southerland, affirmed; Alexander vs. Harkins, from Buncombe, affirmed; Alexander vs. Alexander, from Buncombe, affirmed; Graham vs. O'Bryan, from Cherokee, affirmed; Wilson vs. Featherstone, from Buncombe, error; State vs. King, from Graham, new trial; Thompson vs. Building and Loan Association, from Mecklenburg, error; Chambliss vs. Broughton, from Wake, affirmed; Black vs. Dowd, from Mecklenburg, new trial; Ledbetter vs. Pinner, from Buncombe, affirmed; Wilson vs. Harkin & Featherstone, from Buncombe, affirmed; State vs. Haynes, from Columbus, a new trial.

Insane Asylum Directors Appointed.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., April 27.—Governor Russell late this afternoon appointed as directors of the western hospital T. G. Walton, Dr. H. Y. Mott and V. S. Lusk.

The state superintendent of public instruction says he is receiving letters from negroes asking if they can have school committees under the new school law. He replied no, but that they may have representatives on the committees.